



Docket No. 4967

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9 / a

1-14-03

L. Spruell

In re the patent application of Herbert

Serial No. 09/770184

Filing date: January 29, 2001

Title: Method and Apparatus for Printing on Smartcards and the Like

Group Art Unit 2854 -- Examiner Nguyen

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please cancel claims 2 and 6 - 9, and amend claims 1 and 3 - 5 of this application as on the attachment.

REMARKS

This is a reply to the office action of July 8, 2002. The elected claims (1 - 5) were rejected as obvious over Bodapati et al. in view of Herring et al.

The claims have been amended to more clearly distinguish the invention from the prior art.

The present invention provides a method by which one can print postage on a small device such as a smartcard (which is smaller than the distance between first and second feeding means in a postage meter printer) by first placing it in a carrier (which has a size greater than that distance, so that it can be fed properly).

Prior inventors have provided media carriers of different types. Bodapati discloses a printable media carrier for use with stand sheet feed printers on computer printers, word processors, or copy machines. The carrier is folded in such a way as to provide retainers for positively engaging at least two adjacent side edges of the media